

* **Offertory Response:** Hope Is a Star, v.1 VU 7
**Hope is a star that shines in the night, leading us
on till the morning is bright, When God is a child there's joy
in our song. The last shall be first and the weak shall be
strong, and none shall be afraid.**

DEDICATION OF 'COZY' MITTENS

CHILDREN'S TIME "Advent Conspiracy"
– Simon Abbott and her Hannah Cameron

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING The Candle of Hope – *the Dorey Family*

ADVENT CAROL A Candle Is Burning, v. 1 VU 6

READINGS Excerpt from "It was on fire" by Robert Fulghum
Gospel of Luke 2: 15-19
Offered as wisdom for the journey.
May we walk in its light.

ANTHEM

SERMON Ponder

COMMUNION HYMN People, Look East VU 9

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION INSERT

***CLOSING HYMN** Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending VU 25

***PARTING WORDS**

POSTLUDE

* * *

Welcome to Fort Massey. Happy *St. Andrew's Day* to all the Scots and the want-to-be Scots. We are delighted to have you joining us at our Sunday Gathering. Visitors are invited to sign our Guest Book; if you're looking for a church home, please fill out a Welcome Card at the left of the main doors upon exiting the nave, leaving it with the guest book. Join us for Coffee & Conversation in the lower hall; hosts are – *Sally deWolf* and *Irene Parks*.

Dedication of Cozy Mittens. We are grateful for the women who have been busy over the year making 'cozy' mittens for people living on our streets. A special 'thank you' to convener, *Muriel Hale*. Over a hundred pairs have been made to date, and will be given to two United Church ministries – Brunswick Street Mission and the Out of the Cold Shelter.

2014 Canadian Church Calendars are For Sale after Service.

"Like" the facebook page. Go onto the Fort Massey website and link to our facebook page, and then "like" us so we can get facebook updates.

Mission to Seafarer's. Once again we will be collecting shoe boxes/bags of small gift items for Christmas presents (toiletry items, gloves, hats, scarves, candy, etc.)

December 6th at 9:04:35 am, we stop to remember the Halifax Explosion. Church bells and carillons will ring throughout the city after a 1 minute silence.

Annual RCCO Carol Service, Dec 2, 7 PM (Organ preludes), 7:30 PM Service with a Massed Choir & RCCO organists. Cathedral Church of All Saints. Offering for the RCCO Scholarship Fund.

Just Peace for Palestinians and Israelis. Tue, Dec 3, over the noon hour (11:30-12:30) join United Church members and supporters in Halifax (and across the country) in witnessing to the public of our commitment to this campaign for peace with justice. Come to the public triangle in front of St Andrew's (corner Robie St., Spring Garden and Coburg Roads) to stand, pray and sing for a just peace for all in Palestine and Israel. Come as you can, for a few minutes or for the hour.

The Hospice Society of Greater Halifax will be presenting its annual talk, "Getting Through the Holidays Following the Death of a Loved One" on Wednesday, December 4, 2013 at 7 p.m. at the Pryor House, 9 Spring Street in Bedford.

Choral theatre with *Xara Youth Ensemble* (for girls ages 14-18, led by *Christina Murray* and *Claire Leger*), presents "Pulse" - an authentic and moving portrait of life as a teenager. Dec 7, Bethany United Church, 7171 Clinton Avenue, Halifax, 7:30 PM. Tickets are \$15 adults and \$10 students, and are now available online at www.xara.ca, by phone at 902-223-7828, or at the door.

Anniversary Sunday, Dec 8th, Fort Massey Church, the Rev'd *Sally Shaw*, United Church Formation Director, AST, will be our guest preacher. A soup & chowder lunch will follow in the lower hall.

Tales of A Charlie Brown Christmas, Dec 8, 2 PM and 8 PM, Spatz Theatre, 1855 Trollope Street, Halifax. During the matinee performance one child (12 and under) may accompany an adult for free. Tickets are \$40 - www.jazzeast.com

Rejouissance – Early Music Ensemble with Ann Bradley, soprano, present '5th Annual *Olde World Christmas Concert*' on Wed. Dec. 11th and Thurs. Dec. 12th at 7:30 PM. Bethany United Church, Hfx., call 455-0521 for tickets. A variety of seasonal carols, Baroque masterpieces, including a wintry theatrical presentation.

Handel's MESSIAH with Symphony NS & Chorus, *Jeff Joudrey* - Conductor, Dec 19&20, Cohn Auditorium, 7:30 PM. Tickets @ Cohn Box Office, 494.3820.

Onelight Theatre presents "Tell It On The Mountain" featuring the gospel music of The Sanctified Brothers, Dec 26-31, at Alderney Landing, Dartmouth. Tickets 1.888.311.9090.

Government Will Match Donations for Philippines Typhoon Appeal. Send a cheque (Please be sure to note "*Emergency Response-Typhoon Haiyan Relief*" on the face of your cheque.), **The United Church of Canada, Philanthropy Unit - Emergency Response, 3250 Bloor St West, Suite 300, Toronto, ON M8X 2Y4**

@ FORT MASSEY CHURCH this week, Dec 1-7, 2013:

- *Next Women's Coffee Group*, Dec 12, 10 AM, TBA
- *Chancel Guild*, Tue, 10 AM, Kitchen
- *YOGA with Jenny*, Tue, 7 PM, Lower Hall
- *Spirit Connectors*, Thursday, 12 noon, Le Bistro, South Park
- *Choir Practice*, Thu, 7:30-9 PM, Sanctuary
- *Men's Breakfast*, Fri, 9:30 AM, Athens Restaurant
- *Chowder Making Party*, Fri, 1:30 PM, Kitchen

Newsletter deadline for "The Star" is Sunday, Dec 8th.

The Seton Cantata Choir is performing John Rutter's Gloria and other original carols TODAY at 3 PM in Bethany United Church, 7171 Clinton (just east of the Armdale Rotary) The choir is under the direction of Pierre Perron and will be accompanied by Dean Bradshaw and a Brass & Percussion Ensemble under the direction of George Morrison. Admission \$20. at the door with reduced rates for seniors and children.

Celtic Christmas, TONIGHT @ 7, Port Wallis United Church, 263 Waverley Rd, Dartmouth. Reception to follow.

Costelo, Alcorn and Sherwood on tour for the holidays at Fort Massey Church (CBC will be recording) TONIGHT @ 7:30pm. Admission: 20.00. Join three of the country's most giving performers as they combine their talents to create a night of original music with a dash of Christmas jingle thrown in for good measure. Mixing the sounds of soul, pop, folk and jazz with some of the most timeless holiday classics, Erin Costelo, Coco Love Alcorn and Ian Sherwood form a band that will get your mistletoe tapping! Erin Costelo Based in Halifax, the accomplished musician and arranger has toured North America, scored performances with Symphony Nova Scotia and the Blue Engine String Quartet. On her latest release, *We Can Get Over* is a record of spirit, colour, and sass. Costelo's evocative voice blends with lush string and horn arrangements and playful backup singers. Her evolution as a confident creative force is complete. Coco Love Alcorn *Coco Love Alcorn Sings* joyful soul; a combination of her diverse musical influences including Jazz, Pop, R&B and Folk. Her voice is hailed as 'extraordinary' (Vancouver Province), 'beautiful' (Canadian Musician) and 'stunning' (Star Phoenix). Her playful and witty character, love of improvising and her willingness to engage fearlessly with the audience has made Coco Love Alcorn a mainstay on the Canadian music scene. Ian Sherwood Sherwood is a musician, story teller and a constant creator. He has penned tunes for many other artists as well as theatre, film and television. He was named Contemporary Singer of the Year by the 2013 Canadian Folk Music Awards, Male Artist of the Year by the 2012 International Acoustic Music Awards and was the 2008 and 2010 Music Nova Scotia Musician Of The Year.

Pre-Christmas music concert, featuring the *Halifax Music Co-op Orchestra & Choir*, St. Paul's @ the Parade, TONIGHT at 8 PM. Tickets at the door.